

The Synagogue Set-up (Mark 3:1-5)

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The Synagogue Setup Mark 3:1-5
Teen agers can be so mean to each other especially at camp. I don't know why but the depths of meanness come out of a kid at camp. I was at Summer Basketball camp my 8th grade Summer going into 9th and the upper classman decided to pull a prank on me. They really set me up good. Every one was cool & calm, said lines well conned me good. I'm not going to tell you what they did. I don't like to think about it I'm still traumatized to this day. But I was set up good. In our text, there is a bit of a setup going on at the church house. This set up ^{Playing religious front} ^{tradition is no laughing matter} ~~was~~ ^{is} ~~not~~ ^{is} a joke but life or death.

I. The Trapping Test - All of the recent run-ins with pharisees, their intent was to somehow question what he was doing with the intent of pointing out sin. This instance was a pre-meditated trap.

A. The Subject - vs. 1 There was a man with a withered hand. The language indicates that the hand was not always in that condition but had some how recently been put into cond.

Whenever I read this account, I think of a boy in 6th grade, athlete up in 6th grade hand began... Met him recently... hand in same condition. This would affect his life had a pitiful case, which the Pharisees knew Jesus would order

B. The Stare vs - In the Synagogue the Pharisees sat in front seats of honor to make sure people were not being taught wrong. Can you see the scene as Jesus came in, their burning stare at this miracle worker who defied their traditions. The language indicates that they stared and stared. Looking for any place they could accuse. They kept their distance, so as not to be associated. Do we recognize?

C. The Set up - Their goal was to accuse Jesus of working on the Sabbath. Which the law clearly forbade the Jews to do. But the question was would Jesus violate Sabbath by healing on it. Well just as last week we saw that pharisees went well beyond the teaching of the law to say that only if a person was going to die, could the work of healing be done. EX. Leagleinschman the law out of Christianity. This is a ^{man} ~~man~~ ^{PAWN}

II. The Turning Table - As always Jesus has the situation well in hand. Notice that Jesus does not avoid the confrontation by saying let's wait. As one author writes

A. The Summons - They were watching like a hawk for a secret healing, maybe Jesus might look both ways then heal. But Jesus turns the tables on them. Stand Forth - "Cris into the midst" let everybody see me heal you! You are being used by the Pharisees for evil, change me to shake at the heart of each w/ good.

Intro: I want you to see the folly of the folly of the Pharisees and see to what levels their religious tradition was causing them to sing and also see the love and reason of purely following the example of Christ.

- 1) if a wall fell on anyone, enough rubble was allowed to be cleared away to see whether the person was dead or alive. If he were alive he might be helped, and if he were dead the body had to stay there another day. A fracture could not be attended to, it wasn't life-threatening, and you couldn't even pour cold water on it - a sprained ankle or hand - in order to relieve it; that was work. A cut on your finger, if it was bleeding severely, might be bandaged with a plain bandage, but you weren't allowed to put any ointment on it. When you put ointment on it that was work. Therefore, at most, an injury could be kept from getting worse, that was the mentality - keep life-threatening things from getting worse, but don't make them any better.
- 2) He wanted to challenge them, He wanted to expose their legalistic traditions that were binding and destroying them.

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1) one author writes... they would rather protect their religious traditions than see this poor man healed - that makes Jesus angry!

2) He wanted to challenge them. He wanted to expose their legalistic traditions that were binding and destroying them

B. The Statement - Jesus is unearthing their whole plot. v54 Get a hold on what Jesus is saying: do it... The chorus answers it is always right to do right, it's always ~~wrong~~ to do wrong. Go on... Save or Kill... They were saying it was wrong to heal but not wrong to plot to kill. They turned the law on its head. ^{Reflexively would have done}

C. The Starring - I would not have wanted to have been on the receiving end of v55. The wording indicates an intense staring gaze, that looked into the soul, anger flash in his eyes. He was angry + grieved. Angry over hypocrisy - Grieved at their hardness of heart. Have you ever felt angry + Grieved over a situation?

D. The Stretching - Jesus commands the man to stretch forth his hand and miraculously it was healed. No doubt in the past Jesus had touched out of compassion when healing. That is what they were looking for. Jesus foils their plot by ^{turning the} ~~the~~ Tables and heals the man by merely the ^{word of the} ~~word~~.

III. The Telling Twist - Finally we see a telling twist. v56. Can you see the anger on their faces as they ~~stare~~ ^{stare} out of the Synagogue. Look Who?

A. Twisted Company - The Herodians. They were the natural enemy of the Pharisees. Herodians were not proper Jews, they supported Herod and then

continually coming in contact and having dealing with the Romans. If you will remember from our study of Levi the Tax collector, one of the points of contention is that they were unclean because of their dealings with Romans. That put Tax Collectors Herodians on same level. And here they are trying to take counsel from them. Leagle is now all but you up and cause you to have some Jewish ^{many} B. Trusted Counsel - Kill Him! Not lock him up or shame him or prove him wrong but Kill Him! The probable went to the herodians because it was Herod was the one that put John Baptist to death, they thought maybe they could be persuaded, to take the life of Jesus as well. The most crow thing is that all this took place on the sabbath. The day that they so enshrined and sanctified as holy, was the day on which they conspired to murder their own messiah and maker.

IV - Closing - The principal to be learned is the principle of Law & grace. Of Tradition and truth. People love their works. Love religion that says you're OK if you go to church, read bible, say grace ^{do all externals and have no burning heart of love for God}